

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office
P O Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-LLCON02000-2014-0030-CX

A. Background

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC-76518

PROJECT NAME: USFS Owl Mt. Road Right-of-Way, COC-76518

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T. 6 N., R. 78 W., Section 2, 6th P.M.
T. 7 N., R. 78 W., Section 35, 6th P.M.
T. 7 N., R. 77 W., Section 31, 6th P.M.
Also includes that portion of T. 7 N., R. 78 W., Section 34 where the Bureau of Land Management holds an Exclusive Road Easement for BLM Road 2506 and, that portion of T. 7 N., R. 78 W., Section 36 where the Bureau of Land Management holds a Right-of-Way for BLM Road 2506.

APPLICANT: USFS Parks Ranger District

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

The United States Forest Service (USFS), Parks Ranger District has applied for a right-of-way (ROW) for two Bureau of Land Management (BLM) access roads on Owl Mountain. The ROW is for the purpose of providing a haul route for removal of cut timber and access for the Owl Creek Timber Sale located on adjacent National Forest System lands managed by the Parks Ranger District. The ROW would be for BLM Road #2506 beginning at County Road 27 and continuing to private boundary for a total of 4.60 miles, and BLM Road #2502, beginning at the intersection of #2506/#2502 continuing south to the USFS boundary for a total of 2.79 miles. The ROW would be approximately 7.39 miles long and 100 foot wide encompassing 89.58 acres. This ROW would be issued for 5 years.

The USFS purchaser/contractor (hereafter USFS) would complete necessary road reconstruction and pre-haul maintenance as specified in the Owl Creek Timber Sale contract (pertinent parts of which are attached. Pre-haul maintenance is road maintenance work which must be accomplished to maintain the roads to a satisfactory condition, commensurate with USFS use. As specified in the Owl Creek Timber Sale contract, pre-haul maintenance would include such work as: ditch cleaning; surface blading; drainage structure maintenance; removal of brush and trees from within the Roadway limits; and the maintenance of miscellaneous structures such as cattleguards, gates, and other similar structures; as described in more detail in the attached. In addition to pre-haul maintenance, the USFS would also furnish and construct a French Drain, at a location to be determined, in both BLM Road #2502 and BLM Road #2506. Purpose

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of French Drains is to address soft spots in each road identified last year during routine road maintenance. Any material to be cut by the USFS shall be left on site in standard log lengths. The USFS would maintain roads, commensurate with use, in accordance with road maintenance requirements in C5.31 and the road maintenance specifications. Upon discontinuing use of either road, post-haul maintenance would be completed as per the Owl Creek Timber Sale contract. In addition to the work identified above under pre-haul maintenance, the specifications for the maintenance of roads conducted during the life of the sale, and post-maintenance include such work as slide and slump repair and surfacing repair (also described in more detail in the attached).

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5-3, BLM 1601.08) the following plan:

Name of Plan: the Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP), Record of Decision

Date Approved: December 19, 1984; Updated February 1999

Decision Number/Page: Page 14

Decision Language: Provide the opportunity to utilize public lands for development of facilities which benefit the public, while considering environmental and agency concerns.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, E., (16): Acquisition of easements for an existing road or issuance of leases, permits, or rights-of-way for the use of existing facilities, improvements, or sites for the same or similar purposes.

The Proposed Action has been reviewed with the list of extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) described in the table below.

Extraordinary Circumstance	YES	NO
a) Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.		X
b) Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X

Extraordinary Circumstance	YES	NO
f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau of office.		X
h) Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations		X
k) Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.		X
l) Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species.		X

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by, the Kremmling Field Office interdisciplinary team on 5/15/2014. A complete list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the Kremmling Field Office.

Name	Title	Resource	Date
Bill Wyatt	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Tribal Consultation	5/30/2014
Darren Long	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Plant/Wildlife Species	06/02/2014
Paula Belcher	Hydrologist	Soil, Air, Water & Riparian Resources	5/23/2014
John Monkouski	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Access and Transportation; Noise; Recreation; Wilderness	6/2/2014
Ken Belcher	Forester	Forest Management	05/22/2014

REMARKS:

An archaeological survey and tribal consultation was performed for the entire Owl Mountain Timber Sale. The subject road is within the boundaries of the timber sale. Any mitigation needed for the timber sale pertaining to archaeologically significant sites would be followed for this road right-of-way. The same is true for significant paleontological sites.

MITIGATION: None

COMPLIANCE PLAN: On-going compliance inspections and monitoring would be conducted by the BLM Kremmling Field Office staff during and after construction. The operator would be notified of compliance related issues in writing, and depending on the nature of the issue(s), would be provided 30 days to resolve such issues.

NAME OF PREPARER: Annie Sperandio

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Susan Cassel

COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, E(16). This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Proposed Action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/Susan Cassel
Associate Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 6/3/2014

ATTACHMENTS: Stipulations, seed mix

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DECISION RECORD

PROJECT NAME: USFS Owl Mountain Road Right-of-Way, COC-76518

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NUMBER: DOI-BLM-LLCON02000-2014-0030-CX

DECISION

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, DOI-BLM-LLCON02000-2014-0030-CX, authorizing an access road ROW granted to the United States Forest Service, COC-76518.

Mitigation Measures: None

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS & CONFORMANCE WITH THE LAND USE PLAN

This decision is in compliance with the Federal Land Management and Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act. It is also in conformance with the December 19, 1984; Updated February 1999 Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP).

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: The CX will be available for a formal 30-day public comment period when posted on the Kremmling Field Office's internet website.

RATIONALE

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, E(16). This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Proposed Action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

Administrative remedies may be available to those who believe they will be adversely affected by this decision. Appeals may be made to the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior, Board of Land Appeals (Board) in strict compliance with the regulations in 43 CFR Part 4. Notices of appeal must be filed in this office within 30 days after publication of this decision. If a notice of appeal does not include a statement of reasons, such statement must be filed with this office and the Board within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed. The notice of appeal and any statement of reasons, written arguments, or briefs

must also be served upon the Regional Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, U.S. Department of Interior, 755 Parfet Street, Suite 151, Lakewood, CO 80215.

The effective date of this decision (and the date initiating the appeal period) will be the date this notice of decision is posted on BLM's Kremmling Field Office internet website.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/Susan Cassel
Associate Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 6/3/2014

STIPULATIONS
FOR
COC-76518
Owl Mt. Road

1. The holder shall contact the authorized officer at least 5 (five) days prior to the anticipated start of any major construction/repair that may be needed. The authorized officer may require and schedule a preconstruction conference with the holder prior to the holder's commencing construction and/or surface disturbing activities on the right-of-way.
2. Road surface and total width of disturbance shall remain at current width.
3. The holder shall conduct all activities associated with the operation, and termination of the right-of-way within the authorized limits of the right-of-way.
4. When construction activity in connection with the right-of-way breaks or destroys a natural barrier used for livestock control, the gap, thus opened, shall be fenced to prevent the drift of livestock. Holder shall maintain the right-of-way in a safe, usable condition, as directed by the authorized officer.
5. No hauling, construction or routine maintenance activities shall be performed during periods when the soil is too wet to adequately support equipment. If such equipment creates ruts in excess of four (4) inches deep, the soil shall be deemed too wet to adequately support equipment.
6. All construction equipment and vehicles must be clean, especially the underside, when they enter the project area.
7. All gravel and other materials imported from outside of the project area would need to be certified weed free. If this certification is not possible, the BLM would require inspection of the source area of the materials, including gravel, to insure invasive, non-native seeds would not be imported into the project area.
8. If invasive, non-native species do become established or spread, it would be the responsibility of the holder to control the weeds.
9. Use of pesticides shall comply with the applicable Federal and state laws. Pesticides shall be used only in accordance with their registered uses and within limitations imposed by the Secretary of the Interior. Prior to the use of pesticides, the holder shall obtain from the authorized officer written approval of a plan showing the type and quantity of material to be used, pest(s) to be controlled, method of application, location of storage and disposal of containers, and any other information deemed necessary by the authorized officer. Emergency use of pesticides shall be approved in writing by the

authorized officer prior to such use.

10. The holder(s) shall comply with all applicable Federal laws and regulations existing or hereafter enacted or promulgated. In any event, the holder(s) shall comply with the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976, as amended (15 U.S.C. 2601, et seq.) with regard to any toxic substances that are used, generated by or stored on the right-of-way or on facilities authorized under this right-of-way grant. (See 40 CFR, Part 702-799 and especially, provisions on polychlorinated biphenyls, 40 CFR 761.1-761.193.) Additionally, any release of toxic substances (leaks, spills, etc.) in excess of the reportable quantity established by 40 CFR, Part 117 shall be reported as required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, Section 102b. A copy of any report required or requested by any Federal agency or State government as a result of a reportable release or spill of any toxic substances shall be furnished to the authorized officer concurrent with the filing of the reports to the involved Federal agency or State government.
11. The holder is responsible for informing all persons in the area who are associated with this project that they shall be subject to prosecution for disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts.
12. The holder shall immediately bring to the attention of the Authorized Officer any and all antiquities, or other objects of historic, paleontological, or scientific interest including but not limited to, historic or prehistoric ruins or artifacts DISCOVERED as a result of operations under this authorization (16 U.S.C. 470.-3, 36 CFR 800.112).
13. The holder shall immediately suspend all activities in the area of the object and shall leave such discoveries intact until written approval to proceed is obtained from the Authorized Officer. Approval to proceed shall be based upon evaluation of the object(s). Evaluation shall be by a qualified professional selected by the Authorized Officer from a Federal agency insofar as practicable (BLM Manual 8142.06E). When not practicable, the holder shall bear the cost of the services of a non-Federal professional.

Within five working days the Authorized Officer shall inform the holder as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the holder shall likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
 - a timeframe for the Authorized Officer to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the Authorized Officer are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.
14. If the holder wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the Authorized Officer shall assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the holder shall be responsible for mitigation costs. The Authorized Officer shall provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.

Upon verification from the Authorized Officer that the required mitigation has been completed, the holder shall then be allowed to resume construction.

15. Antiquities, historic, prehistoric ruins, paleontological or objects of scientific interest that are outside of the authorization boundaries but directly associated with the impacted resource shall also be included in this evaluation and/or mitigation.
16. Antiquities, historic, prehistoric ruins, paleontological or objects of scientific interest, identified or unidentified, that are outside of the authorization and not associated with the resource within the authorization shall also be protected. Impacts that occur to such resources that are related to the authorization's activities, shall be mitigated at the holder's cost.
17. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.
18. If paleontological materials (fossils) are discovered during surface disturbing activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials and contact the authorized officer. The operator and the authorized officer shall consult and determine the best option for avoiding or mitigating the paleontological site.
19. One month prior to termination of the right-of-way, the holder shall contact the authorized officer to arrange a joint inspection of the right-of-way. This inspection shall be held to agree to an acceptable termination (and rehabilitation) plan. This plan shall include, but is not limited to, removal of facilities, drainage structures, or surface material, recontouring, topsoiling, or seeding. The authorized officer must approve the plan in writing prior to the holder's commencement of any termination activities.
20. Log and equipment hauling shall be restricted (No Hauling) during opening day and weekends throughout the four major Colorado State rifle big game seasons. Hauling would also be restricted on Memorial Day, Labor Day, and associated weekends.
21. The Bureau of Land Management is planning a timber sale that will also use BLM Roads 2502 and 2506, and will likely take place at the same time as the USFS Owl Creek Sale. In the event that BLM Roads 2502 or 2506 are being used simultaneously by the purchaser of the USFS Owl Creek Timber Sale and the purchaser of the BLM Timber Sale, the parties shall develop maintenance responsibilities and arrangement for accomplishing the work. Nothing in this agreement shall have the effect of curtailing or limiting the administrative use of the agency having the primary administrative control, which control must remain paramount in the event of a conflict. Unless otherwise agreed to in writing, neither party shall be required to perform road maintenance beyond that commensurate with their own use.

22. Unless mutually agreed to otherwise, BLM Roads 2502 and 2506 shall be open at all times to full use and enjoyment by the BLM and its' assigns (e.g., permittees, contractors, timber sale purchasers) for any and all purposes deemed necessary or desirable in connection with the control, management and administration BLM-managed lands or the resources thereof, and insofar as compatible therewith, use by the general public. Temporary use restrictions or closures may be approved by the BLM Authorized Officer to protect persons, property, and public lands and resources if required during maintenance and road improvement operations.

SUGGESTED SEED MIX* FOR RECLAMATION

Big Bluegrass (<i>Poa ampla</i>)	4%	1
Mountain Brome (<i>Bromus marginatus</i>)	40%	8
Blue Wildrye (<i>Elymus glaucus</i>)	33%	7
Slender Wheatgrass (<i>Elymus trachycaulus</i>)	23%	5
	Total:	21

Certified, blue-tagged seed shall be used where a name variety or cultivar is specified. Blue tags which are removed to mix the seed shall be provided to the Forest.

Seeding rates are for broadcast seeding. If drilled, seeding rates may be halved.

*All seed must be certified weed free

**PLS = pure live see